GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:497
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
GROWTH RATE OF FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION
RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual growth rate of production foodgrains is less than that of the annual growth rate of population;

(b) the details of annual growth rate of production of foodgrains during the last five years; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to boost the production of foodgrains?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The annual growth rate of production of food grains is 1.64% as against the average annual exponential growth rate of population of 1.93% (Provisional) for the decade ending 2001.

(b): The annual growth rate of production of food grains during the last five years is as under:

Year	Annual growth rate of food grain production
1996-97	10.5%
1997-98	(-)3.6%
1998-99	5.9%
1999-2000	3.0%
2000-2001	(-)6.6%

(c): In order to improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the Government have launched various new initiatives such as promotion of watershed development programmes, emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, credit linked subsidy scheme for augmenting storage/cold storage capacity, Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern States, Market Information Network and National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. Besides, the Government also encourages farmers to increase production through price policy, which include implementation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), procurement by public agencies and by using instruments of trade. Apart from these, the Government have also switched over from the conventional schematic approach to macro- management mode from November, 2000 for providing assistance to the States. The Macro- Management Scheme integrates 27 schemes into one for supplementing and complimenting the efforts of State Governments through work plans. This gives flexibility to States to address specific problems faced by them depending on local requirements, avoid overlapping in the contents of different schemes and aim at all-around development of agriculture.